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OLD TESTAMENT NOTES AND NOTICES.

The most advanced Old Testament critics hold that the worship of Jehovah in the religion of Israel was the result of a natural process, as was the worship of the various national gods by the peoples around the Israelites; and that, in its earliest stages, the worship of Jehovah was connected with image-worship of this national god. Professor König, of Leipzig, has commenced the publication of a series of articles in which he takes a decided position against these views. The first of the series maintains the position that the Jehovah cultus was not a natural product, but the result of a revelation; and as a proof of this, he shows that, from the very beginning, the legitimate worship of Jehovah, in the consciousness of the people, was divorced from all idols and images, and that this remained the conviction of the best representatives of theocracy throughout the whole Old Testament history.

In Dawson's newest work (*Egypt and Syria; their physical features in relation to Bible History*) special attention is paid to the two chief neighbors of Israel in relation to the physical character of the country and the problem concerning their earliest settlements. Contrary to the assertions of many Egyptologists, who claim that Egypt was settled as early as five or six thousand years before Christ, he maintains that the character of the Nile valley points to a settlement of only about three thousand years before Christ, and that the immigration came from the south-west. He claims that the first builders of Memphis were the immediate successors of the generation that survived the flood, and may in part have been their contemporaries. The mysterious Hyksos, who seem to have ruled over Egypt in the days of Jacob and Joseph, are considered by Dawson to have been Asiatic immigrants of a Turanian or Mongolian type. Their pictures on old Egyptian monuments show a resemblance in face and attitude to the Red Men of North America. He interprets the name Hyksos as Og-(Huk)-Susim, which is interpreted "King of Susim." Cf. Gen. xiv. 5.

From a letter sent by an educated German gentleman, of Haifa, who for many years has been a resident in Palestine, and dated the 7th of November, 1886, we learn some interesting facts about the grapes of the Holy Land. The cultivation of the vine is still extensively carried on in Palestine, especially by the German colonists from South Germany, the so-called Temple Society, who have come to the Holy Land to live, and have done much for the improvement of agriculture, manufacture, etc. During the past summer, the weather was not favorable for grapes; June was very hot, and the Sirocco did much damage, literally roasting the grapes that were not well protected by leaves. In the Phœnician hills the vine did better, and five hundred pounds of the best of grapes sold for from \$3.90 to \$4.50. The writer of the letter mentions the remarkable fact that, at Acco, a single bunch of grapes was brought to market which weighed fully twelve pounds. He asks whether this does not forcibly remind us of the narrative of Joshua and Caleb. In view of the fact that such small prices can be had for grapes and wine, the colonists are beginning to export the wine to Egypt.